

This has dramatically changed. There are now over 3,000 Federal laws and 10,000 regulations, employing hundreds of thousands of bureaucrats diligently enforcing them, with over 80,000 of the bureaucrats carrying guns.

We now have an armed national police state, just as Jefferson complained of King George in the Declaration of Independence. "He has sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

A lot of political and police power has shifted from the state and local communities to the Federal Government over the past 100 years. If a constitutional republic is desired and individual liberty is cherished, this concentration of power cannot be tolerated.

Congress has been derelict in creating the agencies in the first place and ceding to the Executive the power to write regulations and even tax without Congressional approval. These agencies enforce their own laws and supervise their own administrative court system where citizens are considered guilty until proven innocent. The Constitution has been thrown out the window for all practical purposes, and although more Americans every day complain loudly, Congress does nothing to stop it.

The promoters of the bureaucratic legislation claim to have good intentions, but they fail to acknowledge the cost, inefficiency or the undermining of individual rights. Worker safety, environmental concerns, drug usage, gun control, welfarism, banking regulations, government insurance, health insurance, insurance against economic and natural disaster, and the regulation of fish and wildlife. Are just a few of the issues that prompts the unlimited use of Federal regulatory and legislative power to deal with perceived problems.

But, inevitably, for every attempt to solve one problem, government creates two new ones. National politicians are not likely to volunteer a market or local government solution to a problem, or they will find out how unnecessary they really are.

Congress' careless attitude about the Federal bureaucracy and its penchant for incessant legislation have prompted serious abuse of every American citizen. Last year alone there were more than 42,000 civil forfeitures of property occurring without due process of law or conviction of a crime, and oftentimes the owners were not even charged with a crime.

Return of illegally seized property is difficult, and the owner is forced to prove his innocence in order to retrieve it. Even though many innocent Americans have suffered, these laws have done nothing to stop drug usage or change people's attitude toward the IRS.

Seizure and forfeitures only make the problems they are trying to solve that much worse. The idea that a police department under Federal law can

seize property and receive direct benefit from it is an outrage. The proceeds can be distributed to the various police agencies without going through the budgetary process. This dangerous incentive must end.

The national police state mentality has essentially taken over crime investigation throughout the country. Our local sheriffs are intimidated and frequently overruled by the national police. Anything worse than writing traffic tickets prompts swarms of Federal agents to the scene. We frequently see the FBI, the DEA, the CIA, the BATF, Fish and Wildlife, the IRS, Federal marshals and even the Army involved in local law enforcement. They do not come to assist, but to take over.

The two most notorious examples of federal abuse of police powers were seen at Ruby Ridge and Waco, where non-aggressive citizens were needlessly provoked and killed by government agents. At Waco, even Army tanks were used to deal with a situation that the local sheriff could have easily handled.

These two incidents are well-known, but thousands of other similar abuses routinely occur with little publicity. The Federal police state seen in the action the Ruby Ridge and Waco hopefully is not a sign of things to come, but it could be, if we are not careful.

If the steady growth of the Federal police power continues, the American republic cannot survive. The Congresses of the 20th Century have steadily undermined the principle that the government closest to home must deal with law and order, and not the Federal Government.

The Federal courts also have significantly contributed to this trend. Hopefully in the new century our support for a national police state will be diminished. We have in this past century not only seen the undermining of the Federalism that the Constitution desperately tried to preserve, but the principles of separation of powers among the three branches of government have been severely compromised as well.

The Supreme Court no longer just rules on Constitutionality, but frequently rewrites the laws with attempts at comprehensive social engineering. The most blatant example was the *Roe v. Wade* ruling. The Federal court should be hearing a lot fewer cases, deferring as often as possible to the states courts.

Throughout the 20th Century, with Congress' obsession for writing laws for everything, the Federal courts were quite willing to support the idea of a huge interventionist Federal Government. The fact that the police officers in the Rodney King case were tried twice for the same crime, ignoring the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy, was astoundingly condoned by the courts, rather than condemned. It is not an encouraging sign that the concept of equal protection under the law will prevail.

2130

Mr. Speaker, I will yield back the few minutes I have left because I plan to complete my special order on this subject on Wednesday evening.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Ms. Sanchez (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Ms. Carson (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. TURNER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, February 1 and 2 on account of family medical emergency.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. SANFORD (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and February 1 on account of personal reasons.

Mr. SCHAFFER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of travel delay.

Mr. KINGSTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. WATKINS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of official business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. JONES of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CLEMENT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. METCALF) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PICKERING, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today, February 1 and 2.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, February 1.

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE, for 5 minutes, February 1.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GILMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, at his own request, for 5 minutes, today.